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## **Editorial: Vote early, vote once**

Poor us. Every four years, we here in Indiana have to sit idly by as the presidential primary races criss-cross the country for months before we ever get a crack at it. Michigan, Ohio, Illinois and Kentucky have all had their turns, along with the rest of the country. Indiana's place near the back of the line during primary season has meant our voices have felt like an afterthought. The contests are usually decided by the time it gets to us, and victories and losses here aren't generally heralded as loudly as other contests.

But not this year. In case you haven't noticed, this race, in both Democratic and Republican terms, is far from decided. On the Republican side you have front-runner Donald Trump attempting to sew up the nomination to avoid a contested convention, while the challengers, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and Ohio Gov. John Kasich, try to make the Republican National Convention in Cleveland a little more interesting. On the Democratic side, independent Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders is giving former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton a real run for her money in what many had previously considered an inevitable nomination process.

So, what does this mean for you, the voter? Look no further than the electoral embarrassment shown in states like Arizona, where long lines and other issues caused voters hours and hours of delay before they were allowed to cast ballots. For once, we here in the Hoosier State have a real opportunity to help decide who the next president will be. So, while you take the time to peruse our election guide we've printed in today's paper, don't waste any time in choosing your candidates, especially since it's fresh on your mind.

Early voting in Howard County is taking place at the Howard County Government Center, 120 E. Mulberry St., Room 107, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday through May 2. Absentee voting also will be available from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.